<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:</u>

1   1.   A method for storing value that is usable to purchase goods or services,

2   the method comprising:

3   receiving money at a money transfer location from a potential purchaser;

4   storing an electronic record of the received money in a stored value account of

5   the purchaser;

6   receiving a request from the purchaser to transfer at least a portion of the

7   received money to a recipient;

8   electronically sending the requested money to the recipient and debiting the

9   stored value account.

1   2.   A method as in claim 1, wherein the money transfer location includes a

2   device that is communicable with a host computer, and wherein the stored value account is

3   stored in the host computer after receiving information on the received money from the

4   device.

1   3.   A method as in claim 2, wherein the request to transfer the money is

2   received at a server computer that is communicable with the host computer.

1   4.   A method as in claim 1, wherein the money is received from a group of

2   money sources consisting of cash, checks, credit cards, and debit cards.

1   5.   A method as in claim 3, wherein the host computer is configured to

2   electronically transfer the requested money to the recipient.

1   6.   A method for transferring money from a sender to a recipient, the

2   method comprising:

3   receiving money from the sender along with information on the recipient that

4   is to receive the money;

5   creating an electronic record of the money and the intended recipient;

6   providing the recipient with various payment options for receiving the money,

7   wherein the payment options are selected from a group consisting of a hand delivery to the

8   recipient in cash, a hand delivery to the recipient in a money order, the crediting of an

9   account of the recipient, and by the use of a card;

10   receiving a request for payment using one of the payment options selected by

11   the recipient;

12   paying the recipient the money according to the requested payment option;

13   and

14   creating an electronic record of the payment.

1   7.   A method as in claim 6, wherein the request to receive the payment is

2   made from a group consisting of a telephone request, a computer request over a network, a

3   letter request, an in-person visit, a voice response unit request, and a personal digital assistant

4   request.

1   8.   A method as in claim 6, wherein the card comprises a closed-loop

2   debit card, and further comprising extracting information from the card to access the value

3   associated with the card.

1   9.   A method as in claim 8, wherein the debit card comprises an

2   anonymous debit card, and further comprising initializing the debit card upon receipt of the

3   request for payment of the money by the recipient.

1   10.   A method as in claim 8, wherein the debit card comprises a stored

2   value card, and further comprising storing a record of the value on the stored value card.

1   11.   A method as in claim 8, wherein the debit card comprises a phone

2   card, and further comprising storing a record of pre-paid phone time on the phone card.

1   12.   A method as in claim 8, wherein the debit card comprises an internet

2   cash card, and further comprising storing a record of the money on the cash card.

1   13.   A method as in claim 8, further comprising initializing the debit card

2   using a point of sale device to associate an account of the debit card with the electronic

3   record of the money.

1   14.   A method as in claim 8, further comprising printing a receipt with a

2   point of sale device, wherein the receipt has account information that is associated with the

3   electronic record of the money.

1   15.   A method as in claim 14, wherein the debit card comprises the receipt.

1   16.   A method as in claim 14, wherein the receipt comprises a sticker that is

2   placed onto the debit card.

1   17.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising receiving a MICR number

2   from a check of the recipient, and wherein the bank account is credited with the money using

3   the MICR number.

1   18.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising receiving information on

2   an on-line funds account from the recipient, and wherein the on-line funds account is credited

3   with the money using the information on the on-line funds account.

1   19.   A method as in claim 18, wherein the on-line funds account is selected

2   from a group consisting of on-line money transfer accounts, on-line bank accounts, on-line

3. investment accounts, and on-line auction accounts.

1   20.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising receiving a debit card from

2   the recipient, and wherein a bank account associated with the debit card is credited with the

3   money using a return transaction by a point of sale device.

1   21.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising receiving a sender key

2   from the sender and assigning a confirmation code, and further comprising receiving the

3   sender key and the confirmation code from the recipient before providing the money to the

4   recipient.

1   22.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising entering the account

2   information into a point of sale device to credit the account.

1   23.   A method as in claim 22, wherein the account information is obtained

2   from a group of input devices consisting of a MICR reader that reads a MICR line from a

3   check of the recipient, a mag stripe card reader that reads a mag stripe from a card of the

4   recipient, a keypad that permits manual entry of the account information, an OCR scanner or

5   imager that reads the account from a statement of the recipient, and a biometrics device that

6   identifies a pre-registered recipient that is tied to the account.

1   24.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing the recipient

2   with a list of fees associated with each type of payment option.

1   25.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing the recipient
2   with an option of receiving portions of the money at different times.

1   26.   A method as in claim 25, wherein, if the recipient requests payment of
2   the money at multiple times, creating an electronic record of each partial payment.

1   27.   A method as in claim 26, further comprising deducting a transaction
2   fee each time a partial payment is made.

1   28.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising sending the recipient a
2   message with the payment options.

1   29.   A method as in claim 28, wherein the message is selected from a group
2   consisting of e-mails, letters, telephone calls, facsimiles, and telegrams.

1   30.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing the recipient
2   with an option of selecting the payment in a different currency or other type of value.

1   31.   A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing the recipient
2   with an option of receiving a message from the sender.

1   32.   A method as in claim 31, further comprising providing the recipient
2   with an option of receiving the message in a given language.

1   33.   A method for transferring money from a sender to a recipient, the
2   method comprising:
3   receiving money from the sender along with information on the recipient that
4   is to receive the money and that the money is to be stored on a stored value card;
5   creating an electronic record of the money and the intended recipient;
6   receiving a request for payment by the recipient;
7   paying the recipient the money by initializing a stored value card and storing
8   the value of the money on the stored value card; and
9   creating an electronic record of the payment.